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The President's Daily Brief

December 15, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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Table of Contents

<u>USSR-US:</u>	The USSR has tasked the USA Institute with signaling a positive Soviet stance toward arms control negotiations--normal posturing for the Soviets in the course of any change in US leadership. (Page 1)	
<u>Jamaica:</u>	Prime Minister Manley's People's National Party seems likely to win a narrow victory in today's general election. (Page 2)	25X1
<u>Zambia:</u>	[REDACTED]	25X1
	[REDACTED]	25X1
	[REDACTED] (Page 3)	25X1
<u>Notes:</u>	USSR; Egypt-USSR; UK (Pages 5 and 6)	

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USSR-US: *The USSR has tasked members of its USA Institute with signaling a positive Soviet stance toward arms control negotiations.*

Posturing of this type is normal for the Soviets in any change in US leadership, and it is not surprising that the USA Institute is being used to float trial balloons. Several weeks ago, officials of the institute privately stressed to US officials the importance of a SALT II agreement and the need for voluntary restraint.

Institute Director Arbatov, usually out in front of the Soviet consensus on disarmament matters, has indicated Moscow may be willing to agree to a five-year moratorium on peaceful nuclear explosions. Soviet officials usually take a hard line on the necessity of peaceful nuclear explosions and previously have insisted on excluding them from any discussion of nuclear weapons tests. The Soviets are aware of President-elect Carter's linkage of weapons tests and peaceful explosions in any prohibition or freeze.

Soviet officials may also be indicating a willingness to explore the establishment of regional nuclear fuel storage and reprocessing centers. Moscow has thus far given strong support to the London Suppliers Group, which is trying to limit the assistance given to potential nuclear weapons states, and the Soviets would probably go along with any effort to prevent the proliferation of national nuclear reprocessing.

The Soviets are clearly using these conciliatory remarks to encourage the US to consider measures of restraint in its own weapons programs. Arbatov suggested that any decision to slow down the B-1 bomber program

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should be communicated privately to Soviet leaders. The deputy director of the institute said that on-site inspections and troop reductions would be difficult for Moscow to accept.

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JAMAICA: *Prime Minister Manley's People's National Party seems likely to win a narrow victory in today's general election.*

If Manley is returned to office, his restructuring of parliamentary districts, the support of young voters, and his tactical move toward the center will be chiefly responsible.

The minimum voting age has been lowered from 21 to 18 since the last general election, and people in this age group account for 37 percent of the eligible voters. These new voters, attracted by the People's National Party's social program, appear to favor that party by a wide margin.

Manley, however, will also need the votes of party loyalists who have considered abstaining because of grave reservations about where he is taking the country. To reassure wavering party members, the Prime Minister has toned down his more strident rhetoric and has seen to it that his left wing maintains a low profile. Although leading radicals are on the party's ticket, in nearly every case they are running in new districts rather than replacing incumbents.

Manley has also made an effort to accommodate the centrist wing of the party. Members were assigned to help draft the party platform, and attacks on the US have not been a central campaign theme.

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The Labor Party and its leader Edward Seaga have been hurt by poor campaign strategy.

Rather than present their own clearly defined vision of where Jamaica should be headed, party leaders have simply run an anti-Manley campaign.

Seaga is counting heavily on the support of middle-class voters who have become increasingly disaffected with Manley. Businessmen of Chinese and Middle Eastern extraction in particular fear the racist rhetoric of some of the Prime Minister's young advisers.

Manley, partly because of lack of money, waited until the last few weeks to launch his campaign while Labor Party leaders, after months of hard slogging, seemed to lose momentum.

Manley has spent the closing days of the campaign on the hustings where his personal magnetism and rhetorical skill give him a decided advantage over Seaga.

Violence has been a serious concern in the course of the campaign. Beatings, stabbings, and shootings have been carried out daily by partisan thugs. This kind of trouble is likely to continue even after election day.

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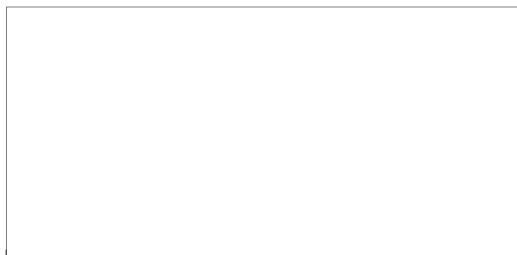
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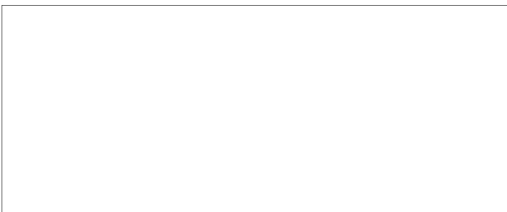
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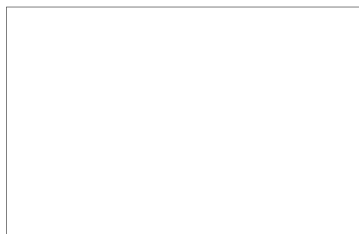
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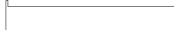
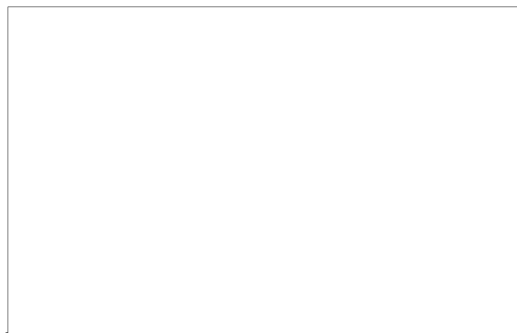
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NOTES

The Soviets yesterday launched an SS-17 Mod 2 ICBM from the Tyuratam missile test range to an area in the mid-Pacific some 5,100 nautical miles away.

This is the first extended-range firing of the SS-17 Mod 2, which could be ready for the field next year.

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We are not certain why the Soviets are developing an SS-17 with a large, single re-entry vehicle. They may believe that a mixture of single re-entry vehicles and MIRV missiles will meet their particular targeting requirements.

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Egypt announced Monday that the Soviet trade delegation, scheduled to arrive in Cairo this week, will postpone its visit until next month.

The delegation is to discuss a new trade agreement and rescheduling of the Egyptian debt.

Talks between foreign ministers Gromyko and Fahmi in early November apparently made no progress toward improving relations between the two governments, and last month's preliminary discussions on renewal of the trade protocol did not go well.

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British Chancellor of
the Exchequer Denis
Healey will announce
today that the Labor
government will again
reduce defense spending.

The cut, an additional \$165 million in fiscal year 1977, is part of an overall effort to pare the budget in order to meet conditions imposed for securing a \$3.9 billion credit from the International Monetary Fund.

The Labor government has cut military spending four other times since it returned to power in 1974. These reductions are in addition to de facto cuts brought about by inflation and the fallen value of sterling. London has tried to convince its allies that previous reductions have not harmed the UK's contribution to NATO, but another round of cuts will further undermine that argument.

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